

an act of the Virginia General Assembly. Since that change in legislative authority more than 20 years ago, the Fairfax County Health Department has become more efficient, effective, and responsive.

Throughout its history, the Health Department has been a leader in the prevention and control of communicable diseases. During the polio epidemic of the 1950s, Fairfax County participated in the Salk vaccine trials and became the first county in the United States to provide polio vaccine to its grade school children. In 1960s, it was the first department in the nation to participate in a mass measles vaccination trial program. And in 1989, when there was an outbreak of Ebola virus in monkeys at a laboratory in Reston, Virginia—an event dramatized in Richard Preston's book "The Hot Zone"—Fairfax County Health Department was once again on the front lines of an emerging disease threat.

While the emphasis on communicable disease control and prevention has not changed, the Health Department has dedicated more of its resources to population-based health services that address disparities within its increasingly diverse community. The Health Department's Adult Day Health Care, Community Health Care Network, Skin Deep Tattoo Removal Program, HIV case management program, and Homeless Health Care program have been a model for other departments in Virginia and around the country. Research on newer and better methods of onsite sewage disposal have often originated in Fairfax County. The department's laboratory is the largest local public health laboratory in the Commonwealth, performing more than 200,000 scientific tests annually.

Since the terrorist acts of September 11, 2001, the Health Department has assumed a first responder role with significant responsibility for a wide range of disaster planning and response activities. In response to lessons learned from the anthrax crisis, the Health Department organized a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) unit, a cadre of trained volunteers, to augment surge capacity during public health emergencies. In the years since, the Health Department has activated its Incident Management Team and the MRC in response to natural disasters such as floods and hurricanes, H1N1 influenza pandemic, Ebola virus, Zika virus and other outbreak investigations.

The Fairfax County Health Department has achieved and sustained a well-earned reputation for excellence due in part to the dedication and compassion of its well-trained workforce, the quality and innovation of its programs and services, and the commitment of its leadership to continuous quality improvement. That commitment was demonstrated again in 2016 when the department achieved national accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Fairfax County Health Department for a century of protecting, promoting and improving the health and quality of life for all in Fairfax County. Their selfless efforts, made on behalf of all citizens of our community are truly worthy of our highest praise.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PEDRO RAMÍREZ DAVIS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you on this day to recognize Mr. Pedro Ramirez Davis for his dedication to organized labor and the progressive political community in Tucson, Arizona and Pima County. Regrettably, he passed away on October 9, 2017 after dedicating over forty years of service to his fellow man. He was a life-long member of the Laborers' International Union Local No. 479 and the Teamsters local in Tucson.

Pedro R. Davis exemplified the highest ideals of the labor movement. He worked ardently to further the common goals of the working man to earn better wages, safer working conditions, the right to collective bargaining and the ability to call for a strike when the circumstances warranted it. He fought for benefits and financial aid for workers who were injured or retired.

Pedro understood the importance of union organizing as a way of empowering people and changing lives. He understood the need to be proactive in advocating policies and legislation to bring about necessary change. He was a true supporter of the Democratic Party because he believed it championed the interest of the working class. He supported local leaders and candidates he believed advocated for the struggles of the lower and middle classes. He worked tirelessly for those candidates, going door-to-door, encouraging folks to join the cause, putting up signs, collecting signatures, attending rallies and pitching in wherever help was needed.

Pedro was born in Nogales, Sonora Mexico in 1928. His parents struggled hard to support their family of twelve children. At an early age, Pedro learned the value of hard work when he had to do his part to help provide for his younger siblings. He would often share stories of his family all huddled around a single kerosene burner and a wood-burning stove trying to keep out the chill of the frigid winters in their hillside Nogales home. In his household, there were times when there was not enough food, blankets and warm beds.

His father's work often took him away from home and that would leave Pedro and his brother Samuel to step up, as the men of the house, to provide for the family in their fathers absence. This, no doubt, contributed to Pedro's kind and generous nature throughout his life. On one occasion, a fine gentleman wrote a letter to the editor about a Good Samaritan, who carried him across a flooded street refused to provide his name and rejected any monetary compensation for the rescue. The Good Samaritan was Pedro.

At the age of 18, along with his peers, Pedro was drafted into military service. After completing his duty, like his father and grandfather before him, he worked as a carpenter. He moved to California to work for some time and upon his return to Nogales he met Enedina Luque. He fell in love with Enedina, and married her soon thereafter. They moved to Tucson in 1950 and Pedro began working in construction.

Throughout the years, his construction job led him to work on many of the major indus-

trial projects that transformed Tucson including the missile silos and copper mines in the surrounding the area. He joined Tucson's Local No. 479 of the International Laborers' Union and the local Teamsters' Union in their formative years and remained actively involved in their collective bargaining efforts throughout his working life.

He took part in strikes against unfair labor practices when it became necessary, which was always a difficult thing, since he was unable to collect a wage for his family during those walkouts. Enedina always supported his decisions because they both saw it as a way for construction workers to obtain decent wages, health benefits, safe working conditions and retirement pensions. Pedro stood firm and worked extremely hard to make change possible for labor workers. His efforts were recognized by the leaders he worked to get elected which includes successful candidates such as: President Bill Clinton, Congressman Ed Pastor and myself, among others. Pedro would often receive invitations to dinners and other special events, to the surprise of many, including his family. Those were proud moments for him, indeed.

Pedro and Enedina raised six children and he always impressed upon them the value of an education. He felt that an education was the best job security anyone could hope to have. Even though he only had a sixth-grade education himself, Pedro was a learned man, always reading newspapers and magazines in both English and Spanish. He could engage in informed discussions on current events around the world. He knew about world leaders as well as his local representatives and had a profound interest in politics at home and abroad. Pedro and Enedina voted without fail as soon as they became naturalized United States citizens. He also instilled in his children and grandchildren the importance of registering to vote and engaged them in discussions on the important issues of the day.

In the early 80's, Pedro was asked to assist in the remodeling of an office building that had been made available to a candidate as the campaign headquarters. He was so inspired by the candidate that soon afterwards, he was out collecting signatures and walking door-to-door registering people to vote. He campaigned tirelessly for human rights and for candidates he respected. Pedro's car was always full of campaign signs and handouts. He eagerly shared his campaign experiences with his family. Pedro loved his country of origin, but he was proud to be an American. He loved and respected what this country stood for and wanted to make it better for the present and future generations.

When Enedina passed away in 2007, Pedro seemed to have lost a skip in his step. He found comfort by staying active in the political sphere and through his love for guitar. He was a self-taught guitarist and amassed a collection of Mexican classic songbooks. After retiring from construction, Pedro kept himself busy working as a school crossing guard for the Tucson Unified School District, which is a job that he took very seriously. The safety of the schoolchildren made him happy and he always had a supply of Jolly Ranchers to pass out to them. One of his greatest joys came when he received a large bundle of handmade birthday cards from the kids at Safford Primary School. The students at the school made him feel proud and happy.

After retiring as a crossing guard, Pedro could dedicate more time to his first love, the guitar. He would travel across town to meet with his friends in the guitar group. Together, they would polish their versions of the classic Mexican love ballads, even as he modestly repeated that he was not learning anything new.

I close by saying that Pedro Ramirez Davis was a hard-working and decent man from very humble origins. Pedro, like so many immigrants, came to this country to work hard and build upon the character and values of our nation. He did so with pride and purpose. He lived a life worthy of recognition, honor and respect. His lifetime of involvement on behalf of the working people and the less fortunate in his community has not gone unnoticed. Pedro Ramirez Davis will be sorely missed.

HONORING TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Truman State University on their 150th Anniversary. Since 1867, this fine institution of higher learning has been producing quality graduates who greatly enrich our society with the knowledge and values that have been instilled in them.

Founded on September 2, 1867, in Kirksville, Missouri, by Joseph Baldwin, the school was originally known as the North Missouri Normal School and Commercial College and existed to train teachers to serve in public schools. It received several name and mission changes over the years and today, it is known as Truman State University. Building on a tradition of academic excellence, Truman State became the state's only public liberal arts and sciences university in 1985 at the direction of the Missouri Legislature. The recipient of multiple national accolades, the school continues to successfully embody their mission of providing affordable education to exemplary students. Highly selective in the students they accept, Truman State University boasts both the highest retention rate of freshman to sophomore students among public universities in Missouri and the highest public university graduation rate in the state.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing the rich 150 year history of Truman State University. This elite public, liberal arts university in rural Northeast Missouri has educated generations of students who have made an exemplary impact both at home and abroad. I commend President Dr. Sue Thomas and the faculty and staff—past, present and future—for their commitment to providing the next generation with a quality education. I am extremely honored to represent this fine institution in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ARNOLD PARK

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. KINZINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Army veteran, community

leader, and my constituent, Arnold Park of Streator, Illinois.

Mr. Park served his country for two years in Germany before returning home to Streator to run the Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance Agency for the next thirty-five years. In this capacity, he was a trusted community member and able to provide peace of mind to thousands of my constituents. He also served his community as a member and President of the Streator School Board and as a council officer at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

His dedication to his community and his neighbors continued throughout his life, with Mr. Park most recently dedicating his time and efforts to the Ramp Builders for St. Paul, an organization he founded which constructs and installs wheelchair ramps to help individuals with handicaps and senior citizens access their homes. The Ramp Builders have built hundreds of ramps since 1987 and it now serves people in nearby communities such as Ottawa, Marseilles, and Seneca.

Without question, Arnold Park positively impacted not only his family and loved ones, but also the entire Streator community. His commitment to his profession, his family, his community, and his faith should serve as an example to all of us.

Sadly, Mr. Park passed away on October 9, 2017. I offer my condolences to his widow, children, and grandchildren. Each of them should know how grateful his community and his country are for all he achieved during his life. It is truly an honor to represent an area of Illinois in which people like Arnold Park are making a difference in others' lives each and every day.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VOLUNTEER SERVICE OF THE BAY ORAL SURGERY & IMPLANT CENTER AND ORAL & MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEONS-BAYCARE CLINIC

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the volunteer service of the Bay Oral Surgery & Implant Center and Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons-BayCare Clinic. Since September 2014, these two groups have taken turns each week volunteering their professional services at the N.E.W. Community Clinic, a federally qualified health center in northeastern Wisconsin.

Over the last three years, these groups have provided expert care on a volunteer basis to over 1,200 patients and completed more than 3,300 surgical procedures. The patients these oral surgeons continue to serve are among the most vulnerable members of society, including those who are disabled, in wheelchairs, are cognitively delayed, have Alzheimer's or other severe forms of mental illness.

Without this volunteer service at the N.E.W. Community Clinic, many of these patients would not have access to the necessary oral procedures they need and deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in commending the humanitarian work of the Bay Oral Surgery & Implant

Center and Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons-BayCare Clinic, and thank them for their ongoing commitment to serving those in need across northeastern Wisconsin.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHESTERFIELD COUNTY'S HISTORIC COURTHOUSE

HON. DAVE BRAT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the centennial of Chesterfield County's historic courthouse. This building is a point of pride for the county of Chesterfield and is an official Historic Landmark for Chesterfield and the commonwealth of Virginia.

The Chesterfield Courthouse sits where the original 1749 colonial courthouse once stood. It took only a mere eight months to build the 1917 Courthouse and began hearing cases shortly after construction. The bell from the 1749 Colonial courthouse has been carefully preserved and is the oldest historic artifact in Chesterfield County. It currently stands on display at the Chesterfield County Museum. The bell is, in fact, three years older than the great Liberty Bell.

The Courthouse is more than a well-preserved Landmark, it is a symbol of our great history. When it was built in 1917, it was one of the first preservation struggles in our nation. It was the place where WWI draftees camped out as they waited to ship out to training camps. It has and will continue to represent the critical third branch of government where it still hears cases to this day, 100 years later.

A centennial anniversary is a great accomplishment and is worth recognition and appreciation. It is necessary for our culture and history to be preserved and remembered; whether that be in the abstract of our ideals and principles, or in the physical; such as the Chesterfield Courthouse. Behind the physical buildings is where our principles and values lie. For this reason, I want to recognize the 100 year anniversary of the historic courthouse in Chesterfield, Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN T. FARINELLA

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me as I pay tribute to the recipient of the 2017 New Jersey Principal of the Year Award, Mr. John T. Farinella of Rahway High School.

Mr. Farinella is a lifelong South Plainfield resident and a graduate of South Plainfield High School. After high school, he went on to earn a dual bachelor's degree in economics and mathematics from Pennsylvania State University. He later received his Master's in Education Administration and Supervision from Saint Peter's College in Jersey City, New Jersey, followed by his Juris Doctor from Seton Hall University's School of Law. Mr. Farinella has worked in the New Jersey public school system for more than 20 years, and he has